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... a monthly bulletin from Canadian Hydrographic Service

About the monthly Water Level bulletin

August Precipitation Over the Great Lakes

As a percentage of the long-term August average:

Great Lakes Basin	127%
Lake Erie (including Lake St. Clair)	87%
Lake Superior	127%
Lakes Michigan-Huron	140%
Lake Ontario	120%

Note: These figures are preliminary.

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Great Lakes St. Lawrence River Water Levels

Volume 3, Number 9 **September 8, 1995**

Wet first half of August and dry second half keep lake levels nearly constant

Lake Levels Stay Nearly Constant

Heavy rainfall fell over much of the Great Lakes basin during the first half of August, while the last half of the month was generally hot and dry.

As a result, monthly average levels on all of the lakes stayed within two centimetres of the levels recorded in July.

With the onset of dry weather in the latter part of the month, the levels of Lakes Ontario and Erie began their seasonal decline, which was about one month later than usual.

The delay in the start of the seasonal decline on Lake Ontario is good news for recreational boaters on the lake and in the St. Lawrence River, as low water levels are a serious concern for that group. However, now that the decline has begun, boaters should exercise caution in shallow areas.

The seasonal decline in water levels is expected to continue the rest of this year. Lake Superior, where levels remained constant during August, is expected to start declining in September.

Heavy Turnout At Public Meeting On Water Levels

About 155 people attended a public meeting on August 9 in Alexandria Bay, New York, organized by the International St. Lawrence River Board of Control.

At the meeting, the Board presented its proposed scope of work to conduct a review of the criteria governing Lake Ontario regulation. A review of the regulation criteria was one of the recommendations in the IJC's 1993 Water Level Reference Study Report.

The Board heard comments from a rather diversified group. Recreational boaters in the Thousand Islands area of the upper St. Lawrence River preferred higher levels. Environmental interests welcomed a review, and demanded higher spring levels to improve fish habitats. On the other hand, residents from the Rochester, N.Y. area were concerned that the review would lead to a wider fluctuation of water levels on Lake Ontario, and increase flood

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Summary information for "LEVEL*news*"

and erosion damage.

The heavy turnout reflects the importance of water level fluctuations to various interests on the Lake Ontario - St. Lawrence River system. Those attending the meeting also heard presentations on how Lake Ontario regulation decisions are currently made, and on the status of two new regulation plans that are now being tested by the Board.

The Board will conduct three more public meetings this year, as listed below. For more information, please contact Ed Eryuzlu at 613-990-5617.

International St. Lawrence River Board of Control Public Meetings in September

The Board will conduct three more public meetings, as follows:

- September 18, Rochester, N.Y., (Holiday Inn at Airport)
- September 19, Kingston, Ontario (City Hall)
- September 20, Cornwall, Ontario (Civic Complex)

All meetings will start at 7:00 p.m.

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